

Introduction

HISTORY

The 1992 Census of Agriculture is the 24th taken by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The first agriculture census was taken in 1840 as part of the sixth decennial census of population. From 1840 to 1950, an agriculture census was taken as part of the decennial census. A separate mid-decade census of agriculture was conducted in 1925, 1935, and 1945. From 1954 to 1974, a census of agriculture was taken for the years ending in 4 and 9. In 1976, Congress authorized the census of agriculture to be taken for 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data reference year so that it coincided with the economic censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. This adjustment in timing established the agriculture census on a 5-year cycle collecting data for years ending in 2 and 7.

USES OF THE CENSUS

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the Nation's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the county, State, and national levels. Census statistics are used by Congress in developing and changing farm programs and for determining the effects of these programs. Many national and State programs are designed or allocated on the basis of census data, such as funds for extension services, research, and soil conservation projects. Private industry uses census statistics to provide a more effective production and distribution system for the agricultural community.

AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

The census of agriculture is required by law under Title 13, United States Code, sections 142(a) and 191, which directs that a census be taken in 1979, 1983, and in every fifth year after 1983, covering the prior year. The 1992 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

FARM DEFINITION

Since 1850, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes first were established, the farm definition has been changed nine times. The current definition, first

used for the 1974 census, is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. The farm definition used for the outlying areas varies according to area. The report for each area includes a discussion of its farm definition.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Data on acreages and inventories for 1992 and 1987 are generally comparable. Dollar figures shown for expenses and agricultural product sales are expressed in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation or deflation. In general, data for censuses since 1974 are not fully comparable with data for 1969 and earlier censuses due to changes in the farm definition.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

State data. Tables 1 through 45 in chapter 1 show detailed State-level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more past censuses. Tables 46 through 52 provide 1992 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

County data. Chapter 2 presents selected data items by county. Tables 1 through 17 include general data for all counties. The counties are listed in alphabetical order in the column headings. Tables 18 through 39 include only counties reporting the data item. Counties not having the item, or with a limited number of farms reporting the item, have data combined and presented as "all other counties."

SPECIAL TABULATIONS

Custom designed tabulations can be developed to individual user specifications on a programming cost reimbursable basis. Inquiries about special tabulations should be directed to the Chief, Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of Title 13, United States Code, no data are published that would disclose the operations of an individual farm. However, the number of farms in a given size category or other classification is not considered a release of confidential information and is provided even though other information is withheld.

INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA

Inventories of livestock, poultry, and machinery and equipment are measured as of December 31 of the census year. Crop and livestock production, sales, and expense data are for the calendar year, except for a few crops (such as citrus) for which the production year overlaps the calendar year.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

–	Represents zero.
(D)	Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
(H)	Standard error or relative standard error of estimate is greater than or equal to 99.95 percent.
(IC)	Independent city.
(L)	Standard error or relative standard error of estimate is less than .05 percent.
(NA)	Not available.
(S)	Withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the response rate or a consistency review.
(X)	Not applicable.
(Z)	Less than half of the unit shown.
cwt	Hundredweight.
sq ft	Square feet.

A. Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1992 and 1987

[Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	All farms		
	1992	1987	Percent change from 1987 to 1992
Farms ----- number	13 520	14 066	-3.9
Land in farms ----- acres	9 624 463	9 989 073	-3.7
Average size of farm ----- acres	712	710	.3
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	347 982	302 838	14.9
Average per acre ----- dollars	491	425	15.5
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	39 126	35 685	9.6
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres -----	2 262	2 365	-4.4
10 to 49 acres -----	3 735	3 835	-2.6
50 to 179 acres -----	3 176	3 437	-7.6
180 to 499 acres -----	2 057	2 137	-3.7
500 to 999 acres -----	927	941	-1.5
1,000 to 1,999 acres -----	582	598	-2.7
2,000 acres or more -----	781	753	3.7
Total cropland ----- farms	11 700	12 233	-4.4
Harvested cropland ----- acres	2 093 779	2 028 537	3.2
Irrigated land ----- farms	10 173	10 752	-5.4
----- acres	1 043 347	1 076 886	-3.1
Irrigated land ----- farms	10 901	11 143	-2.2
----- acres	1 142 514	1 161 207	-1.6
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000	725 159	617 882	17.4
Average per farm ----- dollars	53 636	43 927	22.1
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000	181 380	130 441	39.1
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000	543 779	487 442	11.6
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	3 979	4 380	-9.2
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	1 751	1 894	-7.6
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	1 845	1 854	-5
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	2 217	2 272	-2.4
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	1 241	1 272	-2.4
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	987	1 005	-1.8
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	876	897	-2.3
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	399	321	24.3
\$500,000 or more -----	225	171	31.6
Total farm production expenses ¹ ----- \$1,000	602 812	494 641	21.9
Average per farm ----- dollars	44 593	35 171	26.8
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) ¹ ----- farms	13 518	14 064	-3.9
----- \$1,000	123 215	118 167	4.3
Average per farm ----- dollars	9 115	8 402	8.5
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	6 269	6 350	-1.3
Other -----	7 251	7 716	-6.0
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	8 142	8 688	-6.3
200 days or more -----	5 614	5 834	-3.8
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms	7 530	7 854	-4.1
----- number	860 830	855 338	.6
Beef cows ----- farms	5 306	5 430	-2.3
----- number	356 971	346 462	3.0
Milk cows ----- farms	1 082	1 447	-25.2
----- number	80 369	76 610	4.9
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms	7 212	7 520	-4.1
----- number	506 739	499 464	1.5
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms	727	748	-2.8
----- number	43 017	33 643	27.9
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms	575	575	-
----- number	61 407	48 290	27.2
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms	1 721	1 943	-11.4
----- number	519 745	595 626	-12.7
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms	622	1 008	-38.3
----- number	1 778 605	2 089 320	-14.9
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms	21	23	-8.7
----- number	5 091	7 793	-34.7
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for silage or green chop ----- farms	1 037	1 352	-23.3
----- acres	41 446	45 437	-8.8
----- tons, green	793 122	864 471	-8.3
Wheat for grain ----- farms	1 274	1 711	-25.5
----- acres	177 360	191 384	-7.3
Barley for grain ----- farms	6 295 501	7 149 004	-11.9
----- bushels	2 345	3 139	-25.3
----- acres	104 213	126 345	-17.5
Oats for grain ----- farms	7 879 596	9 506 857	-17.1
----- bushels	681	789	-13.7
----- acres	11 923	11 107	7.3
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms	669 910	699 305	-4.2
----- acres	8 660	9 114	-5.0
----- tons, dry	660 762	649 688	1.7
Land in orchards ----- farms	2 073 029	1 962 334	5.6
----- acres	790	865	-8.7
----- farms	12 833	15 113	-15.1

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

1992 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

B. Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1992 and 1987 (Metric Measurement)

[1 acre = 0.4047 hectare. For further metric conversions, see metric conversion table in appendix E. Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	All farms		
	1992	1987	Percent change from 1987 to 1992
Farms number	13 520	14 066	-3.9
Land in farms hectares	3 895 020	4 042 578	-3.7
Average size of farm hectares	288	287	.3
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm dollars	347 982	302 838	14.9
Average per hectare dollars	491	425	15.5
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm dollars	39 126	35 685	9.6
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares farms	2 262	2 365	-4.4
3.85 to 20.04 hectares farms	3 735	3 835	-2.6
20.05 to 72.67 hectares farms	3 176	3 437	-7.6
72.68 to 202.22 hectares farms	2 057	2 137	-3.7
202.23 to 404.65 hectares farms	927	941	-1.5
404.66 to 809.51 hectares farms	582	598	-2.7
809.52 hectares or more farms	781	753	3.7
Total cropland farms	11 700	12 233	-4.4
..... hectares	847 352	820 949	3.2
Harvested cropland farms	10 173	10 752	-5.4
..... hectares	422 243	435 816	-3.1
Irrigated land farms	10 901	11 143	-2.2
..... hectares	462 375	469 940	-1.6
Market value of agricultural products sold \$1,000	725 159	617 882	17.4
Average per farm dollars	53 636	43 927	22.1
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops \$1,000	181 380	130 441	39.1
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000	543 779	487 442	11.6
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 farms	3 979	4 380	-9.2
\$2,500 to \$4,999 farms	1 751	1 894	-7.6
\$5,000 to \$9,999 farms	1 845	1 854	-5
\$10,000 to \$24,999 farms	2 217	2 272	-2.4
\$25,000 to \$49,999 farms	1 241	1 272	-2.4
\$50,000 to \$99,999 farms	987	1 005	-1.8
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..... number	1 778 605	2 089 320	-14.9
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms	21	23	-8.7
..... number	5 091	7 793	-34.7
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for silage or green chop farms	1 037	1 352	-23.3
..... hectares	16 773	18 388	-8.8
..... metric tons	719 508	784 235	-8.3
Wheat for grain farms	1 274	1 711	-25.5
..... hectares	71 778	77 453	-7.3
..... metric tons	171 336	194 564	-11.9
Barley for grain farms	2 345	3 139	-25.3
..... hectares	42 175	51 132	-17.5
..... metric tons	171 558	206 987	-17.1
Oats for grain farms	681	789	-13.7
..... hectares	4 825	4 495	7.3
..... metric tons	9 724	10 150	-4.2
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms	8 660	9 114	-5.0
..... hectares	267 410	262 929	1.7
..... metric tons	1 880 621	1 780 200	5.6
Land in orchards farms	790	865	-8.7
..... hectares	5 194	6 116	-15.1

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.